



**For Immediate Release**

**#18-19**

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISES NEW YORKERS TO PREPARE FOR  
HIGH WINDS**

*High Wind Warning in effect for New York City from 10 p.m. Sunday through  
6 p.m. Monday*

*Gusts up to 60 mph could affect the city*

**February 24, 2019** — The New York City Emergency Management Department today advised New Yorkers to prepare for gusty winds that will affect the city beginning late Sunday evening. The National Weather Service has issued a High Wind Warning in effect for New York City from 10 p.m. Sunday through 6 p.m. Monday, February 25. A High Wind Warning means a hazardous wind event is expected or occurring and sustained wind speeds of at least 40 mph or gusts of 58 mph or more could lead to property damage and scattered power outages. These conditions may also make travel difficult, especially for large vehicles like trucks, vans, and SUVs. Drivers of these large vehicles should exercise extreme caution.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has issued a soft-closure ban on all empty and tandem tractor trailers in effect from 10 p.m. Sunday through 6 p.m. Monday, February 25 for the Verrazzano-Narrows, Robert F. Kennedy, Throgs Neck, and Bronx-Whitestone bridges. Consider alternate routes & allow for additional travel time. For more information, visit [mta.info](http://mta.info).

“With the gusty winds we are expecting Sunday night and Monday, we want you to take precautionary measures to secure your property. Bring in any loose, lightweight objects like garbage cans, potted plants, or lawn furniture that can be easily blown away,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “Driving large vehicles like vans and SUVs may be difficult; we advise you to give yourself extra travel time, exercise caution, adhere to any travel restrictions, and use mass transit where possible.”

NYC Emergency Management continues to work closely with National Weather Service to monitor the weather and will activate the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Monday morning with key agencies and partners to coordinate any response to potential impacts associated with the forecast. The City’s Downed Tree Task Force will activate to ensure a quick, effective and coordinated response to any downed tree events. NYC Emergency Management works closely with the Parks Department, NYPD, FDNY, Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Sanitation, and Consolidated Edison to mitigate any downed tree impacts. DOT will also monitor traffic conditions and coordinate efforts to address any issues. Staten Island ferries are currently set to operate on a normal schedule.

The Department of Buildings (DOB) has issued a weather advisory to remind property owners, contractors, and crane operators to take precautionary measures and secure their construction sites, buildings, and equipment during high winds expected to begin on Sunday, February 24.



The department will perform random spot-check inspections of construction sites around the city. If sites are not secured, the department will take immediate enforcement action — issuing violations and Stop Work Orders, where necessary. To safeguard construction sites, builders, contractors, and developers should take all precautionary measures including but not limited to the following:

- Tie down and secure material and loose debris at construction sites.
- Cover electrical equipment from exposure to the weather.
- Store loose tools, oil cans, and extra fuses in a toolbox.
- Secure netting, scaffolding, and sidewalk sheds.
- Suspend crane operations and secure crane equipment when wind speeds reach 30 mph or greater.
- Suspend hoist operations and secure exterior hoists when wind speeds reach 35 mph or greater, unless manufacturer specifications state otherwise.
- Brace and secure construction fences.
- Call 911 if there is an emergency on a construction site.

Buildings Bulletin 2015-029 outlines the requirements for vertical netting, debris netting and material-fall protection devices at buildings and construction sites. To view this bulletin, click [here](#).

To secure a building, property owners should take all precautionary measures including but not limited to the following:

- Bring inside loose, lightweight objects such as lawn furniture, potted plants, garbage cans, garden tools, and toys.
- Anchor objects that would be unsafe outside, such as gas grills or propane tanks.
- Close up and secure patio umbrellas.
- Secure retractable awnings.
- Remove aerial antennas and satellite television dishes.
- Pay attention to local weather forecasts and bulletins issued by the National Weather Service on local radio stations.
- Beware of falling branches if you are near trees.

### **Economic Development Corporation/NYC Ferry**

- Due to the forecast for high winds, NYC Ferry may experience service disruptions. Riders are advised to prepare for possible cancellations or delays. Please use caution on all landings and vessels and allow for extra travel time. Check the NYC Ferry app, website and social feeds for real-time updates. Riders can also sign up for route specific push notifications on the NYC Ferry app.



**Power Outages**

- To prepare for a possible power outage, charge cell phone batteries, gather supplies, and turn your refrigerator and freezer to a colder setting. If you lose power, items that need refrigeration will stay cooler for longer.
- If your power goes out, disconnect or turn off appliances that would otherwise turn on automatically when service is restored. If several appliances start up at once, the electric circuits may overload.
- Make sure your flashlights and any battery-operated radios or televisions are working. Keep extra batteries.
- If you lose power & have a disability, access and functional needs or use Life Sustaining Equipment (LSE) & need immediate assistance, dial 911.
- Do not use generators indoors.

For more information about severe weather conditions, visit [nyc.gov/severeweather](http://nyc.gov/severeweather). New Yorkers are also encouraged to download the Notify NYC mobile application, which is available for free download from iTunes or Google Play. Notify NYC is the City’s free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can also receive phone calls, text messages, and/or email alerts about weather conditions and other emergencies. To learn more about the Notify NYC program or to sign up, visit [nyc.gov/NotifyNYC](http://nyc.gov/NotifyNYC) or call 311. You can also follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

-30-

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